GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2610
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2003
WELFARE MEASURES FOR RAG PICKERS
DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU;SUKENDER REDDY GUTHA

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide gloves, masks and rubber boots to all rag-pickers helping in waste segregation;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide with some kind of insurance cover to all rag-pickers doing civic services in disposing waste;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action proposed as a welfare measure to help the rag pickers in their civic services?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI)

(a) As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, there is no such proposal.

(b) As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Finance, there is no proposal to provide insurance cover to rag-pickers.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment does not have any specific schemefor the welfare of rag-pickers. However, it is implementing a scheme named, An Integrated Programme for Street Children with the objective to prevent destitution and withdrawal of children from the life on street and their placement into national mainstream. The Programme provides for shelter, nutrition, health care, education and recreational facilities to street children, and seeks to protect them against abuse and exploitation. The beneficiaries covered under the Programme may include rag-pickers.

Besides, The Ministry of Human Resource Development has undertaken aninitiative called Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, in an effort to universalize elementary education. The objectives of the initiative are, inter-alia, to ensure that all children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007, and eight years of elementary schooling by 2010. It covers the entire country with a special focus on educational needs of girls, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and children in difficult circumstances.